



Date: September 3, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report: Weekly Update For Week Ending September 3, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending September 3, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

West Nile Virus Update: Health and Human Services

Long Beach has documented two human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) in the past week, bringing the cumulative city total this year to seven cases, one death and the other individuals recovering at home.

In order to continue to combat this mosquito-borne virus, DHHS's Vector Control Program sprays over 300 miles of residential gutters in the city every seven to ten days.

Over 500 complaints of locations of standing water have been investigated, and if necessary, treated to prevent mosquito growth. If warranted, these sites will be treated in accordance with the above noted schedule through the duration of the mosquito season.

DHHS' Public Health Laboratory has been granted approval by the California Department of Health Services to conduct WNV confirmatory tests. This will allow the DHHS to confirm human WNV cases locally rather than sending them to the State Laboratory for confirmation.

Last week, staff presented West Nile Virus educational information to residents at the Springdale Apartments in the El Dorado Park area and at the California Recreation Center.

Police

On Saturday, September 4, officers assigned to the North Division Substation will report for duty at the newly constructed building located in Scherer Park, 4891 Atlantic Avenue. A grand opening ceremony is planned for October.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Human Resources

On September 1, the Civil Service Commission approved transfers in lieu of layoff and permanent assignments for nine employees impacted by the Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan. This action was the final step in the FY04 Transition Plan to eliminate the impact on the remaining employees without any actual layoffs. This Transition Plan was developed to address the needs of 34 incumbents out of a total of 221 eliminated positions (187 of the positions were vacant). The 34 impacted employees were taken care of as follows:

- One employee was hired from an eligible list for a new classification.
- One employee was hired to fill an unclassified vacancy.
- One employee is on a Leave of Absence pending a PERS Disability Retirement.
- Twenty-two employees have been transferred to new positions in their existing classification.
- The Civil Service Commission permanently appointed nine employees to new classifications in lieu of layoff on September 1.

With the FY04 Transition Plan completed, the Department of Human Resources will focus efforts to develop a Transition Plan for the FY05 workforce reductions.

Library Services

The Library has received a \$25,000 grant through the Global Languages Materials Grant Program administered through the State Library. The Library will be able to enhance its Spanish language collections significantly with these funds. An Advisory Committee made up of city residents will assist librarians with the selection of materials.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

West Nile Virus: Health and Human Services

At the request of City Council, staff will make a presentation regarding measures the Department and other vector control agencies are taking to combat mosquito growth and prevent the spread of West Nile Virus. The presentation will be made at the City Council meeting on **September 7**.

Staff will present West Nile Virus information to residents at the Springdale Apartments in the El Dorado Park area and at the California Recreation Center. Future presentations are scheduled for the North Pointe Apartments on **September 8**, Sea Mist Senior Living Complex on **September 9**, Main Library on **September 13**, Disabled Resources Center on **September 14**, and Lincoln Elementary School on **September 16**.

Library Services, Main Library

The ***Plein Air Watercolors*** by Douglas Stenhouse exhibit opens on **September 1**. Mr. Stenhouse studied art at Princeton and USC, and uses his skills to portray landscapes, seascapes, and buildings of Southern California in this exhibit. The art will be displayed in the Lobby Gallery, **September 1–October 31**.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Library Services, Main Library (continued)

The 4 Artists Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month exhibit features the work of four Long Beach based artists: Steven Amado, Paul R. Dominguez, Maria E. Gonzales-Maly, and Rob Padilla, who explore their Latin American roots in sculpture, assemblage, and painting. The art will be shown in the Display Area, Children's Gallery, and Lower Level Gallery from **September 1-October 15**. There will be a reception for the Hispanic artists on **Saturday, September 18**, from 3 – 5 p.m. in the Lower Level Gallery.

Local musician and author **Michael Archuleta** will discuss his book *Mariachi Method for Guitar* and demonstrate the techniques on **Tuesday, September 14**, from noon to 1:00 p.m. Bring your lunch and join us in Meeting Room 1 on the Lower Level, Main Library, 101 Pacific Avenue, 570.7500.

AWARDS

Long Beach Energy

Customers gave LBE a 92 percent overall satisfaction rating for gas services provided in July.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,096 emergency calls for service: 104 calls for fires of which 20 involved structures. It also responded to 713 emergency medical calls; 463 required paramedics.

LBFD Kids, a volunteer organization consisting of Long Beach Firefighters and Lifeguards, recently visited the children's hospital at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. The group works closely with hospital staff by routinely volunteering time and providing themed visits for the sick kids. This month's theme was "Beachfest" and included face painting, hula dancing, games and lots of smiles by both kids and volunteers alike!

New Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training classes are now forming at the Department's Training Center. The course includes six modules, each with a different subject such as first aid, search and rescue, fire extinguishment, etc. Information is available either on-line at LongBeachCERT.org, or at the CERT hotline, 570.2525.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Health and Human Services

On August 27, DHHS held its third graduation for participants of the Latino Diabetes Prevention and Management Program. Forty-two individuals completed the program, which teaches Latinos about diabetes self-management in Spanish. The Program was established in September 2003 in response to an increase in diabetes in the Latino population and due to the lack of specific Spanish language educational services in the community. Since its inception, 150 people have graduated from this program.

NEIGHBORHOODS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On August 28, over 200 guests enjoyed "A Night in Old California," a festive gala held at Rancho Los Cerritos. This fundraiser, sponsored by the Rancho Los Cerritos Foundation, was to raise money for restoration and educational enhancements at the museum. Foundation board members Barbara Bixby Blackwell and Margie Newell co-chaired the event, working with a dozen volunteers and foundation staff support. Bixby Land Company, The Dougherty Foundation and Farmers and Merchants Bank were key sponsors, and a number of organizations and businesses underwrote activities, bought tables, and donated items for both a silent and live auction.

On September 1, the senior acting group, "Prime Time Players," entertained an audience of approximately 85 people at the Long Beach Senior Center. The group of actors was directed by Caprice Roethe and sponsored by the Public Corporation for the Arts. The event was free and open to the public.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Construction is continuing at Officer Daryle W. Black Memorial Park with the installation of the playground equipment and the rubber matting under the equipment. Accessibility improvements are underway at Whaley Park.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Renaissance Arts Festival, with an estimated attendance of 5,000, was held August 28 and 29 at Queen Mary Events Park.

A Hot Rods and Harleys car show, with an estimated attendance of 500, was held August 29 at the South Shore launch ramp.

A "Jazz by the Bay" concert, with an estimated attendance of 1,500, was held September 2 at the Queen Mary Events Park.

Warner Bros. TV, with a cast and crew of 20, filmed "Spooky Sleepover" on August 28 and 29 on the Queen Mary.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,713 service calls, including 882 Gas and Water Utility Turn On orders and 787 Turn Off orders. There were 759 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 285 meter-maintenance and billing related orders were completed.

Of the total number of service calls received, 107 customer emergency orders were completed.

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OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Marine Bureau

Marine Bureau management worked with the Marine Advisory Commission on September 3 to facilitate a public hearing on a proposal to enact a City ordinance to prohibit smoking on City beaches.

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cc: Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
Reginald Harrison, Deputy City Manager
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City Manager Department Heads
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Jyl Marden, City Council Liaison